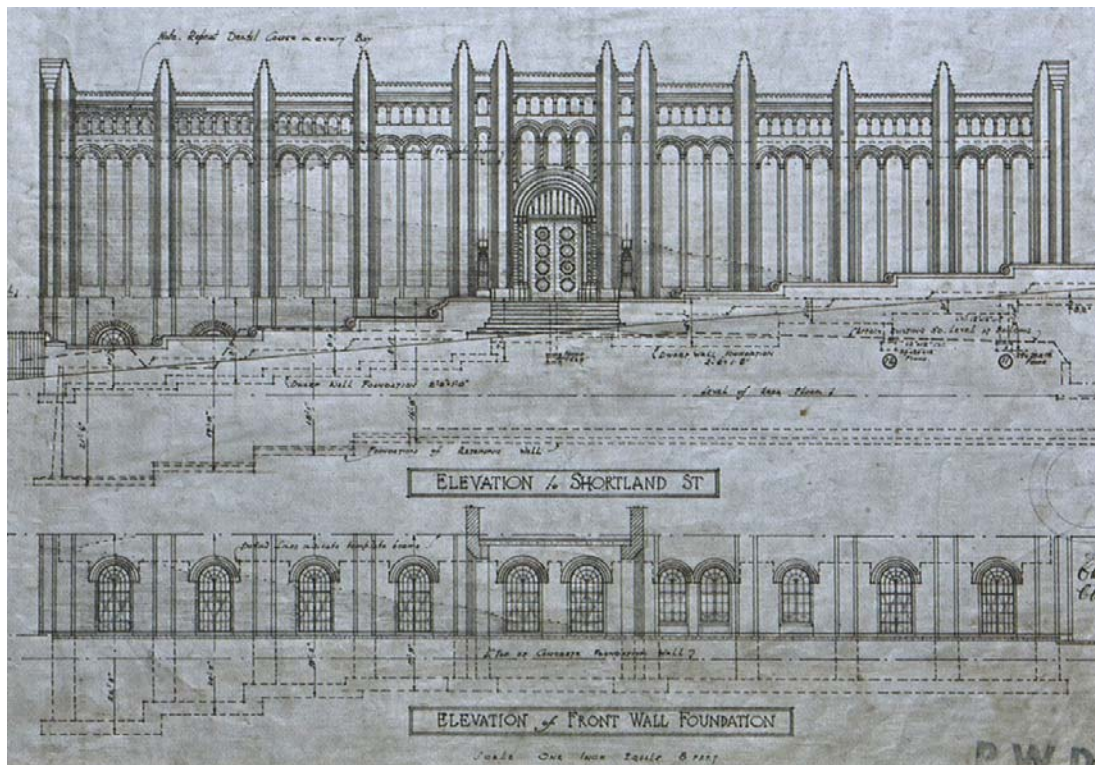


The Kenneth Myers Centre, formerly the 1YA Radio Station Building, opened in January 1935. The building was designed by Auckland architects, Wade and Bartley, who in their scheme included a pair of lamps to grace the main entrance to the building.



Above: Wade and Bartley's street elevation drawing of the 1YA Radio Station Building showing the pair of bronze lamp standards at the main entrance. (Source: Postcard image of a Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition titled 'From Perfumery to Radio Station')

A number of ownership changes to this NZHPT registered Category I historic place led to the loss of the original lamps from the building. At the time of the building's conservation and adaptation in 2000 the University of Auckland and Auckland City agreed on conditions requiring the restoration of the lamps. Although found, the original lamps were off limits for conventional survey and documentation.

Working within the constraint that the artefacts are not to be touched, the bronze lamp pylons were surveyed in-situ from a distance using advanced three-dimensional laser scanning technology. The documentation generated from that survey and historic research of the lamp pylon and lamp shade was essential for the accurate reconstruction of the lamps.

The successful reconstruction and installation of the lamps called for a unique approach that is a combined effort of consultants and contractors from many disciplines including building conservation (Archifact Ltd.), laser surveying (Geometia Ltd.), bronze casting (The Heavy Metal Company Ltd.), plastic rotomoulding (Portstar Plastics Ltd.), lighting (Aesthetics Lighting), electrical (Allendale Electrical) and masonry (Keith Walker Construction). The reconstructed lamps match the originals and include sandcasting using LG2 bronze and warm white lighting with a colour temperature that recreates the effect of the original GLS lamps commonly used in the 1930's.

The installation of the reconstructed lamps at the entrance of the Kenneth Myers Centre was completed in October 2009.